

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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BENTON RESIDENT SENTENCED FOR ROLE IN METHAMPHETAMINE CONSPIRACY

Edward E. McNally, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on January 20, 2006, **MELISSA D. WADE**, age 23, of Benton, Illinois, was sentenced in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. **WADE**, who had previously pled guilty to a one-count indictment charging her with conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, was sentenced to 135 months' imprisonment, 5 years' supervised release and was fined \$300.

The violation took place between May 2003, and May 10, 2005, in Jackson and Perry Counties. Co-defendants **CHARLES MICHAEL WADE**, **SHANE CLUTTS** and **STEPHANIE M. RENNISON**, have previously been sentenced to 240 months' imprisonment, 144 months' imprisonment, and 87 months' imprisonment, respectively, for their involvement in the methamphetamine conspiracy. Co-defendants **RYAN J. STEIN** and **KENNETH R. GRAFF** have pled not guilty and are awaiting jury trial.

***STEIN** and **GRAFF** are presumed innocent unless and until they are found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.*

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, and Drug Enforcement Administration pursuant to their participation in the Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. The Perry County Sheriff's Office also assisted in the investigation.

The case was assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson for prosecution.